

Appropriations & Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2007

Call to Order: 1:44 p.m.

Roll Call: Tribal Treasurer Shirley Oldman, Tribal Councilor Rita Shananaquet, Tribal Councilor Alice Yellowbank.

Absent: none

Attendance: Legislative Leader Beatrice Law, Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie, Vice-Chairman Bill Denemy, Associate Judge Jenny Kronk, Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima, Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima, Housing Commissioner and Community Center Work Group member Ken Harrington, Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith, Legislative Office Manager Michele LaCount

Motion made by Councilor Yellowbank and supported by Councilor Shananaquet to adopt the agenda as amended for February 7, 2007.

Vote: 3-yes, 0-no, 0-abstained, 0-absent

Motion Carried

Councilor Shananaquet questioned Bell's Fishery's self sufficiency.

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie said a 3-yr plan set in place.

Motion made by Councilor Shananaquet and supported by Councilor Yellowbank to approve the minutes of January 11, 2007 as corrected.

Vote: 3-yes, 0-no, 0-abstained, 0-absent

Motion Carried

2:20 p.m. Public Comment opened: no comments

2:21 p.m. Public Comment closed

Councilor Yellowbank: Was the Housing Commission informed of the work group plans for the community center.

Community Center Work Group member Ken Harrington: yes, told them of today's meeting and only heard back from Commission members Arlene Naganashe and Su Lantz that they were unavailable.

Treasurer Oldman: Work group is over budget. Building purpose is not as planned. Building was in-kind match to Rural Development but intended for the entire community. Ken Harrington and she were on the Housing Commission at time of the grant. Said lost of use of (Holy Childhood hall). Plan was to have offices in the center, for elder's private

meeting areas, grounds maintenance ... Talked about Susan Hall and use of Mukwa Café equipment and furniture.

Treasurer Oldman: Asked for comments from Community Center Work Group on the costs and getting on the same page.

Community Center Work Group member Ken Harrington: It would cost \$482,000.00 to build today. Gave total cost break down in 3 categories. \$452,000.00-building, \$22,000.00- Architect, and \$6,000.00- miscellaneous.

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie: Where did number come from as it is actually \$467,603.

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: That figure does not include the well.

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie gave the figures: \$24,100.00 for Architect, \$5,000.00 miscellaneous and \$4,000.00 general conditions.

Community Center Work Group member Ken Harrington said he was guessing the numbers.

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie: Total cost reduces to \$516,000.00 to build project after removing kitchen equipment, and furniture.

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: Floor tiles and outside stone can be removed bringing it down to \$441,000.00.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima: Was there ever a smaller plan.

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: No, never deviated from 2000-2001 Housing Commission plan.

Drain field tie in with the elder's houses discussed as Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith and Community Center Work Group member Ken Harrington said all have individual septic with one common drain field.

Community Center Work Group member Ken Harrington passed out a "Usage Plan" for the building. The plan included housing documents such as eviction, maintenance, applications and other forms and files.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima: In his opinion we are looking at more than what we need out there.

Legislative Leader Law: Did work group talk to Tribal Police about having "forms and files" on site.

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: Only blank forms would be housed to avoid running back and forth to the office.

Treasurer Oldman: Was concerned about Tribal funds, and needs to be for all Tribal Citizens not just tenants. Said have a kitchen in the government building commons area that's already established for the elder's lunches as was also mentioned in the "plan" for the community building. Said if we take out \$104,000.00 from Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie indications, we are at \$516,000.00 is that the most we can cut?

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie explained extra cuts bring the expenditures down to \$441,000.00.

Councilor Shananaquet and Treasurer Oldman: They would agree to increase the \$141,000.00 to add to the original allocation but ultimately up to a vote of Tribal Council.

Councilor Shananaquet recommends \$141,000 to come from Prior Period funds.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima asked what the square footage was.

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: 3,600 sq ft.

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie: There is no reserve for additional funding for the architect.

Community Center Work Group member Ken Harrington responded to Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima said the work group did not have the intention for it to be "The Community Center" for the Tribe. The actual one would hold 500 people.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima agreed, as did Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima talked of other multiple housing complexes doing the same thing with community centers. He would be more comfortable building more houses as that is what he hears we need.

Treasurer Oldman asked Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith explained original grant match and why it has taken 7 years.

Councilor Yellowbank agrees with Councilor Shananaquet for adding the \$141,000.00.

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: Talked with safety coordinator and what he thought of using Mukwa Café equipment. He will make a sight visit and let her know.

Councilor Shananaquet: need to do more to avoid further costs and match our obligation.

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: She includes a report on progress of community building in annual report to HUD. That is why we are not denied future funding. HUD's site visit is due this year.

Community Center Work Group member Ken Harrington: this project needs a \$20,000.00 contingency.

Councilor Shananaquet: no we do not know what our carry over funds are at this point.

Treasurer Oldman: Said there was question if the Appropriations and Finance Committee sent Legislative Leader Law to the work group on behalf of them to convey any concerns and said they did not.

Legislative Leader Law agreed.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima: No more houses are being built and they are asking for \$141,000.00 for a community center. What about building more houses? The Housing Commission talked about them 5 years ago.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima said he is not seeing assessments or any nails put to hammer for Tribal members needs in housing. He is seeing: lots of mortgages and no buildings.

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: Land is designed for individual home sites and lease inheritance is a situation now. It is with the Tribal Chairman There are 3 qualifying Tribal members waiting.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima: Is that the biggest hold up.

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: Yes.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima: Do we know that as fact?

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: Yes, it is in her reports. We will never have 100% Tribal Members home ownership.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima: Why?

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: Her and John Givens from the Housing Department will be taking finance and credit counseling classes.

Councilor Yellowbank: Need to look at rentals. We are hiring young people at the casino with no place to stay. They need to live closer to their work environment with in town. Is any research been done on it.

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: Yes the Tribal Chairman is working with the Planning Department regarding public transportation.

Councilor Yellowbank: What ever happened to the surveys they took awhile back?

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: This is the year for another one.

Councilor Yellowbank: Tribal Council needs a copy of the last one.

Housing Director and Community Center Work Group member Deleta Smith: She will forward one to Tribal Council.

Councilor Shananaquet asked when Priority Budget was done.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima, it was done in 2004.

Community Center Work Group member Ken Harrington: Agreed with Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima regarding 5 houses that fell through. Said ultimately money comes from Tribal Council and they did not want to be landlords. Said we need lease to own program.

Treasurer Oldman: Problems are still there even from when she was on the Housing Commission. Said housing is working to fill Tribal Members needs.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima: We need to work as a mortgage company. Said his wife works for Habitat for Humanity and they have built and manage 60 houses per year.

Councilor Shananaquet: We are having a hard time getting people in and is in favor of putting money up front especially for multi housing projects.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima: We have plenty of money for other things.

Councilor Shananaquet: Tribal Council needs to set priorities for spending prior period funds.

Motion made by Councilor Shananaquet and supported by Councilor Yellowbank to make the recommendation to Tribal Council to fund \$141,000.00 for the community building capital project fund. Funding to come from Prior Period funds.

Vote: 3-yes, 0-no, 0-abstained, 0-absent

Motion Carried

3:30 p.m. Recess called

3:50 p.m. Meeting reconvened

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie handed out copies of the Tribal Court budget.

Treasurer Oldman thought the Court budgets had \$150,000.00 of unexpended money from 2006.

Legislative Office Manager Michele LaCount indicated previous conversation with Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie regarded the Tribal Court 2007 budget modification request and the possibility of waiting for end of year to see if it is still needed as 2006 prior period funds equaled the \$69,531 budget modification increase.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima and Associate Judge Jenny Kronk stated they did not have the Chief Judge costs for part of the year.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima explained budget justification which includes appellate meetings, and a new (\$13,000) data base infrastructure maintenance system that is transcript capable.

Legislative Office Manager Michele LaCount: Cost and maintenance of infrastructure could be split between the Court and Tribal Council.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima: The 2007 Court budget did not include cost of drug tests as case load for juveniles has increased due to passage of Juvenile Justice Statute. Peacemaking training set in place but no money allotted for program. The Court has a wellness program started 4-5 years ago, but grant for program ended 2-years ago, so the Court budget has been paying for it. The Drug-Court program works with other departments and has concern that they need proper training.

Councilor Shananaquet: Those programs have training money through their own budgets.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima: Those program managers do not always allow spending for Drug Court purposes.

Councilor Shananaquet: They are already substance abuse counselors and do not need much more training.

Councilor Yellowbank: We can bring training here.

Councilor Shananaquet agreed and asked how many we service now.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima: We have 4 successes and sees Emmet County offering youth the chance to have case transferred to the Tribe.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima: Could the Court function until the end of the year if no money approved.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima: When she worked with the staff accountant it was difficult to move money around.

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie: The problem with lack of funds due to foster care funds which are no longer there.

Councilor Shananaquet: She would like time to look at all of this.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima commented on appellate over spending travel line.

Councilor Shananaquet: It appears an increase is needed for Tribal Court talking into concern the mess the budgets are in.

The Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie: She would look into all of this.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima: Explained the appellate pay, per Councilor Shananaquet request.

Councilor Shananaquet: Why we are paying for services of the appellate if no opinions are made.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima: Appellate were invited to attend this meeting to offer explanations and comment.

Councilor Yellowbank: Needs more time to look this over.

Councilor Shananaquet: If the budget modification increase for the Court does not happen will the Court still be able to function.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima: Talked again about the transcription machine.

Legislative Office Manager Michele LaCount: Would Tribal Council be interested in a transcription machine. The reply was, yes.

Councilor Yellowbank: Can we post cases.

Associate Judge Jenny Kronk: yes.

Legislative Office Manager Michele LaCount: We used to post in glass case outside of the Courtroom.

Treasurer Oldman: What would happen if the committee does not act today with allocating the Court more money.

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie: The committee needs to keep in mind what they are asking for today also affects the 2008 budget. This could wait until the next finance Committee meeting.

Councilor Yellowbank: What has the Court accomplished so far with the money they have been given.

Associate Judge Jenny Kronk listed various big projects they have been working on and completed but awaiting approval.

Legislative Office Manager Michele LaCount: Quarterly reports given by the previous Tribal Court Administrator kept Tribal Council updated on where the money is going.

The Committee asked Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima to retrieve the statistics regarding case loads.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima: Tribal Court Chief Judge JoAnne Cook handles about 5-6 times, consuming cases and has 9 sign offs. Associate Judge Jenny Kronk has 17 time consuming cases and 68 sign offs.

Councilor Yellowbank: What about 8 cases from Judge Petoskey.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima: The Court has received 4 of them back.

Councilor Shananaquet: Are still paying Judge Petoskey.

Tribal Court Administrator Bernadece Kiogima: No.

Treasurer Oldman: There is no need to approve an increase for the appellate as will be one justice short with Donna Budnik working for Tribal Council.

Treasurer Oldman: Need to watch budgets as we head toward the budget hearing. Said Councilor Shananaquet wants to look at request for Tribal Court and this will take more meetings as the budget hearing is getting close.

Councilor Shananaquet: Agrees and said the Court budget needs to be approved and wait on the Appellate budget.

Tribal Council Secretary Melvin L. Kiogima: Is it appropriate to separate those two budgets like this.

It was explained to him that this would be for expenditure tracking purposes only between the judges, the office and the appellate.

Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie suggested making the change in a resolution.

Motion made by Councilor Shananaquet and supported by Councilor Yellowbank to recommend to Tribal Council an increase of \$45,808 to come from Prior Period funds for the 2007 Tribal Court Operating budget

Vote: 3-yes, 0-no, 0-abstained, 0-absent

Motion Carried

Motion made by Councilor Shananaquet and supported by Councilor Yellowbank to table the Election Board budget until the next Finance Committee meeting.

Vote: 3-yes, 0-no, 0-abstained, 0-absent.

Motion Carried

Future meeting schedules were set: February 14, 2007, February 28, 2007, March 7, 2007, and March 14, 2007.

5:15 p.m. Motion to made by Councilor Yellowbank and supported by Councilor Shananaquet to adjourn.

Vote: 3-yes, 0-ne, 0-abastained, 0-absent

Motion Carried